

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Published Since 1877

Through Baptist Children's Village — Baptists provide care for abused, neglected children

By Chrystelle Thames

Recognizing the attack Satan is waging against Mississippi families, the Baptist Children's Village (BCV) offers vital care to hurting children and families across the state.

Mississippi Baptists have provided this needed service through their official Mississippi Baptist child care agency, the BCV — "Mississippi's largest family."

Since its inception, the BCV has provided — and continues to provide — care without cost to families in trouble. In its 99th consecutive year of child care, the BCV provides a multitude of services without the assistance of governmental funding.

The Village neither seeks nor accepts state or federal governmental funds. Instead,

Mississippi Baptists have responded to the cry of hurting children by providing for their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

The BCV's 1995-96 budget is \$3,455,300. Through Cooperative Program gifts, churches provide about 14% of that budget. Another 76% comes directly from churches and individuals who answer the call of the BCV's founding father, S.L. Foster.

Responding to the burden he felt to provide care for hurting children, Foster wrote in *The Baptist Record*, "If this thought is of God, he will put it into the heart of some person to send a contribution for this cause."

In the early 1960's the BCV changed the focus of its ministry, as it has done repeat-

edly since then, to meet the needs of children in our changing society. Its name was changed from "The Baptist Orphanage" to "The Baptist Children's Village" to more accurately depict the focus of its ministry.

Children were also, at this time, moved from dormitory living to home-style cottages. Later The Village saw a need in the state for chemical dependency treatment for children and youth. Seeking to address this problem, the BCV united with Mississippi Baptist Medical Center to provide such treatment.

Since June 1981, BCV has continuously provided emergency care to children, first on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson, and now on its northern campus at Independence.

Because of the tremendous need for such a program in the northern part of the state, a cottage was designated for emergency care on the Farrow Manor Campus of the BCV in the fall of 1994. During the past year the BCV admitted approximately 130 children into this emergency care program.

Emergency care includes crisis intervention services offered by a trained social worker and counselors, and often leads to referral or placement in a longer term program; or allows time to plan subsequent services.

"Most often children end up in blended families where one of the parents does not love the child," says Alisa Brashear, BCV Emergency Care Social Worker. "The child knows this, and responds to this lack of love which often results in neglect, abuse, or both."

The latest attempt to meet the needs of children in a changing society is a behavior re-education program on the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson.

Henry Glaze, executive assistant for programs, explains: "In January 1996 The



Alisa Brashear, BCV social worker for emergency care, counsels with a BCV emergency care resident. Keith May is unit director for that program.

BCV initiated the 'Peak Ascent' program to assist up to eight adolescent boys who have been identified as having major problems in school, home, and/or peer relationships.

"Although not therapeutic in nature, the BCV utilizes philosophies of group and individual counseling, as well as ropes course and adventure-based and wilderness experiences to help redirect behavior and develop skills that will allow them to relate more effectively with family, peers, and adult authority figures."

"Peak Ascent" is staffed by around-the-clock, live-in child care workers and professional staff who model and teach behavior changes to these young men.

Whatever the program need, children in need have one thing in common, says Brashear: "They are 'love-starved.'"

Thames is PR director for the Baptist Children's Village.



"Peak Ascent" staff (from left) are: front row, Randy McKeithan, Bill Gaddis, Marty Turner; back row, Ben Boykin, Jan Zagorski, Chris Huff, and Brent Bozeman.

Prison dads

For Larry and Glenna Faus, "serving time" has a different meaning since they were invited to teach a Parenting By Grace seminar at the Duluth (Minn.) Federal Corrections Center. The Fauses, family ministries directors for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Baptist Convention, were intrigued and anxious when chaplain Cliff Walley invited them to the prison. Their fears were dispelled, however, when one inmate told them he wanted to learn to be the father he never had as a child. "If I'd had the right kind of parenting, I don't think I'd be here today," he told them. Another inmate asked prison authorities after the seminar to transfer him from the minimum security prison in Minnesota to a maximum security unit in Colorado so he could be closer to his children. A number of prison ministry opportunities are available in Mississippi. For more information, contact the Missions Extension and Associational Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Construction resumes

The city council of Sofia, Bulgaria, decided after lengthy debate to reverse itself and allow Baptists to resume construction of an orphanage and Bible school in the national capital. The council had previously halted construction and ordered an investigation by a city commission known to be hostile to evangelistic groups. "Praise the Lord. Tell the brothers and sisters in the Baptist world how thankful we are for their prayers and their support," said Theo Angelov, president of the Baptist Union of Bulgaria. Although historically grounded in the country, Bulgarian Baptists have had a difficult time in recent years. The powerful Bulgarian Orthodox Church has opposed many Baptist projects and pressured government officials. A recent article in a large-circulation newspaper was headlined, "Baptists Eat Babies for Breakfast." Communism reduced the ranks of Baptists to less than 1,000 believers, but rapid growth was experienced after the fall of the Stalinist rulers. "It is possible there will be difficulties on the road ahead," Angelov said.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Pat and Ruth Gullidge of Grenada donate their farm to Southwestern Seminary to fund an endowment for the study of ministries to aging people. "We had only seen (the farm) as how much cotton it would grow. I had no idea what it was worth," Pat said.

20 years ago

A bid of \$3.3 million for reconstruction of Gulfshore Assembly in Pass Christian is accepted by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Gulfshore and Camp Kittiwake, the state Royal Ambassadors camp, were destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969.

50 years ago

Plans are announced for a \$637,000 women's dormitory at Mississippi College. The as-yet unnamed facility will be built overlooking the famous Mount Salus spring, which furnishes drinking water for the school and the city of Clinton.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

Like a mighty army

All armies expect casualties. That fact explains the need for medics, ambulances, and field hospitals. However, the Christian church has come to the place where we expect a 50% drop-out rate from our mighty army.

The apostle Paul admonished Timothy to "endure hardship with us like a good soldier of Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 2:13). A good soldier wants to please his Commander and will not become entangled with civilian pursuits detrimental to his calling.

What would cause a person to be a poor soldier? Refusal to carry out orders, having a poor attitude about training and discipline, and not being there when you need him would certainly set the pattern.

A whopping 90% of Americans say they believe in God. Many profess — but do not possess. Jesus said, "Ye call me Lord, Lord, but do not the things I say." In Mississippi there are 693,000 members in our Southern Baptist churches, but we do well to locate the

485,000 resident members.

The average Sunday School attendance in 1995 was 178,591. On any given Sunday you will find about 20% of all the population in all churches. Can we really sing, "Hell's foundations quiver. At the shout of praise?"

Why such a dismal record in this army? Being good in obstetrics and poor in pediatrics doesn't say too much. Just how effectively are new members integrated into our churches?

Thom S. Rainer, in *The Book of Church Growth* (Broadman), says a church will lose up to 2% of its attendance due to death, 3% will transfer, and 6% will drop out. More just "walk away" than all other reasons combined.

If your church has 200 people attending, then 12 will drop out within a year. You will have to add 12 new members just to tread water. Why the drop-outs? For some, it is a dispute with a fellow church member. Others become bored, and some feel they have never been accepted into the

church. One of our neediest mission fields is the vast area of inactive members.

Who, in your church, has the responsibility of reclamation? Who will plan a strategy, promote the training, and carry out the actions to reclaim the wandering? Is the lost sheep or the lost son worth all the effort?

There are resources such as books, conferences, and seminars that will help you. Read *What Can We Do About Church Drop Outs* by H.C. Kirk (Abingdon), Gary McIntosh's *Finding Them, Keeping Them*, or Lyle Schaller's *Assimilating New Members*. In addition, there are numerous books on church growth.

The pastor and staff can only do so much in the area of reclamation. It is when the lay people get involved that things can happen. Every church needs to appoint a "Minister of Reclamation." This vast mission field awaits the church that will obey the Great Commission, beginning in Jerusalem.

"A GOOD PASTOR WOULD HAVE BEEN HERE FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, DAD."



Guest opinion...

Worship services geared to kids welcome them into fellowship

By Betty Barber and Judy Hicks

Editor's note: The children's sermon is an integral part of the worship in many churches. Barber and Hicks are approved children's workers, sharing their view of this important worship feature. Both are members of First Church, Clinton.

Springtime brings many changes to our minds. The newness of life returning to nature is a cause for expressions of thanksgiving to an ever-loving God and Creator. Spring also signals new experiences in our churches — some of our children begin to have their first experiences in "big church." How can adults help these experiences be positive while encouraging children and their parents?

Understand what worship means to a young child (age 4-7 years). Positive attitudes may develop as a child sees worship as a special time to be with his family and church friends. He can enjoy the actions of singing, praying, reading the Bible, giving

offerings, and learning about Jesus. He can also experience the special feelings of belonging, loving, giving, and sharing.

How can adults make worship meaningful for children? Worship leaders as well as other adults can pay attention to children, greet and call children by their names, permit some movement and noise, encourage a reference to children's presence and participation in the service, and accept the nurturing of children as a responsibility of the entire church family.

What is the purpose of the children's sermon? The children's sermon feature has become an integral part of the worship services in many churches. The purpose of this feature should be for older preschoolers and younger elementary children to spend worshipful times with the pastor and perhaps other church staff members. The children's sermon should be a time to talk on the level that these children understand. Often, the more simplistic the message, the better even adults understand.

How do young children learn about worship? Much of what children learn is "caught" rather than taught. The attitude of adults in the life of a child will guide the child's learning. Young children are literal-minded. They think in concrete terms, thus they do not understand symbolism. To them, the building they come to is church, not God's house. To them, a house is where someone lives, eats, sleeps, and plays. The Bible is a special book that tells us about Jesus and how much he loves us. If that book is God's Word, then it must belong to God and the child is not supposed to bother something that belongs to someone else.

The words we use must be understandable to the child. Young children can only learn from what they have experienced. When we give them more than they are ready for, several things can happen: They can distort the truth; misunderstand and become frightened; be embarrassed; or dismiss the truth because they do not

THE FRAGMENTS

This is no joke

What is worth thinking about on your way to work? Perhaps your neighbor's poor driving courtesy — mine included — or the need for a second cup of coffee.

Then again, it may be some deep theological matter such as "Why didn't I put mayonnaise on the sandwich instead of mustard?" World problems crop up in our minds, but those issues are much too depressing to ponder.

It took a bumper sticker to really foul up my morning reverie last week. These mobile billboards can cloud over and rain on your highway almost any day. I don't

usually crack up over "redneck" jokes; I get the feeling they may be poking fun at me.

But the bumper sticker glued to the mud-spattered, fender-dragging, reflector-studded, flap-bearing jeep said: "My kid can beat up your honor student."

Let's pretend it was meant to be a joke. I suspect the good ole boy driving didn't even know the bumper sticker was there.

Personally, I get the same feeling when I hear a professor is making \$35,000 a year, and a coach is making \$175,000.

— GH

understand.

If the worship leader asks questions during a children's sermon feature, he should be ready to accept the child's answer with respect and dignity. The child is answering from his experiences and understanding. Laughing at a child takes away from the sincerity of the child's worship experience.

Young children are active; God made them that way. Allow the children to sit facing the leader, not the congregation. The worship leader should sit on eye level with

the children. The congregation that respects the responses and affirms the children will be encouraging positive experiences of worship.

Jesus leads us to what our understanding of children should be in Mark 9:37 (NIV) when he said, "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name, welcomes me." Jesus welcomed children with open arms and churches dare not do less. We must nurture young children as participants in the community of worshippers.

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State's bivo education director project is first in SBC

By William H. Perkins Jr.

The launching of "Project 25" to identify and train bivocational education directors in Mississippi marks the first such effort in the Southern Baptist Convention, according to the program's state coordinator.

"The purpose of this project is to enlist 25 pastors/churches to adopt the concept of bivocational education directors. Pastors are encouraged to seek a person in the church or community with commitment and skills who, with training, could lead the educational program on a part-time

basis," said Chester Vaughn of Jackson, Mississippi coordinator for New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) programs.

Project 25 is a joint effort of NOBTS, the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), and the Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) in Nashville, he explained.

"The Baptist Sunday School Board, to encourage this program, will provide scholarships to each of the first 25 churches that enroll a student. Each participating church will receive a

one-time amount of \$100 to cover registration and course fees for the first course," Vaughn said.

The bivocational education worker program is an eight-course study that leads to a Christian Education Certificate, awarded under the Church Leadership Certificate Program administered by New Orleans Seminary.

"We feel this is an excellent approach to assist churches that need educational assistance, but cannot afford it with a full-time

staff member," said John F. Gardner, manager of the BSSB Church Growth Group.

In addition to NOBTS administering the program and BSSB providing scholarships, MBCB is encouraging Baptist associations across the state to promote bivocational education workers in churches that do not have full-time education staffers, Vaughn pointed out.

The bivocational education worker course work is underway at First Church, Purvis; Broadmoor Church, Jackson; and

Golden Triangle Association, Columbus. The class period is a single two-hour session per week for eight weeks.

Other teaching locations around the state can be established when enrollment for a particular site reaches 10-12 students, Vaughn added.

"This opens the door for any church to have a trained education director," he said.

For more information, contact Vaughn at 268 Northpointe Parkway, Jackson, MS 39211-2412. Telephone: (601) 956-6285.

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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Youth Night '96 to feature twin services in Coliseum

By William H. Perkins Jr.

Mississippi Baptist Youth Night will return to Mississippi Coliseum in Jackson July 26-27 after a three-year run at Mississippi Memorial Stadium, and planners have high hopes for a new twin-services format designed to



St. Clair

handle the ever-increasing crowd at the popular annual event. "There will be identical services at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 26, and 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 27. Youth Night has become too popular for one service on Friday night," said Matt Buckles, chairman of the youth night committee and a consultant in the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Headlining Youth Night '96 are Barry St. Clair of Reach Out Ministries in Atlanta; Christian recording artist Clay Crosse of Nashville; and worship leaders Kindred Heart of Horizon Church in Jackson.

Large overflow crowds for previous Youth Night services at the 10,000-seat Mississippi Coliseum prompted a move in 1993 to 65,000-seat Mississippi Memorial Stadium across town from the Coliseum.

Interest continued to mushroom after the move, with about



Kindred Heart

20,000 people attending in 1994.

Youth Night '95 was washed out on July 28 at the open-air facility by a dangerous, lightning-laden thunderstorm that sent thousands of attendees scurrying for cover underneath the stands at the stadium.

"Our greatest disappointment was for the young people who did not get to hear the outstanding program of Christian preaching and singing. We don't want to get rained out again; that was a waste of a valuable opportunity to do the Lord's work and a waste of people's money," Buckles said.

The twin indoor services on Friday evening and Saturday morning will alleviate weather concerns, but Buckles cautioned churches to carefully consider which service they will attend in order to prevent overcrowding.

"We are asking metropolitan Jackson-area churches and central Mississippi churches to take advantage of the Saturday morning service, which will free space at the Friday evening service for out-of-town people who drive long distances and plan to spend the night," he said.

Buckles also said St. Clair will host a meeting of youth ministers at

the coliseum, beginning at 6:15 p.m. on Friday and 9:15 a.m. on Saturday. A room number has not been announced, so youth ministers should ask for directions and follow signs to the meeting room after arrival at the coliseum, he said.

Nominations committee begins work on filling state boards, commissions

Nominations for service on the boards and commissions of the Mississippi Baptist Convention are now being accepted by the Committee on Nominations, according to Wayne Edwards, committee chairman and director of missions for Lauderdale Association.

Edwards said a limited number of vacancies will be filled by qualified nominees on the following boards and commissions:

- Board of Ministerial Education.
- Christian Action Commission.
- Education Commission.
- Historical Commission.
- Mississippi Baptist Children's Village.
- Mississippi Baptist Medical Center (Jackson).
- Baptist Memorial Health Care System (Memphis).
- Blue Mountain College.
- Mississippi College.
- William Carey College.
- Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

According to the state convention constitution, the list of nominees for these positions will be submitted for approval to the messengers at the 1996 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.



New secretaries' officers

The Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association elected officers at its annual meeting at Camp Garaywa in Clinton, April 22-23. The officers for 1996-97 (from left) are: Jamie Luecke, Fairview Church, Columbus, president; Danie Robbins, Mississippi College, Clinton, first vice president; Dot Simmons, Handsboro Church, Gulfport, second vice president; and Zonia Waltman, Pinelake Church, Brandon, secretary-treasurer. (BP photo by Betty Anne Bailey)

Nomination forms can be obtained from the MBCB executive director's office, P.O. Box 530,

Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Mississippi choir, orchestra to perform at appointment of 4,219th FMB missionary

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Southern Baptists' overseas missions force will reach the 4,200 mark for the first time when the Foreign Mission Board appoints about 50 new missionaries June 12 during the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in New Orleans.

The appointments are projected to bring the total number of Southern Baptist missionaries to 4,219.

Focusing on the theme, "A World of Need," the appointment service will highlight urgent needs for Christian witness across the world. Baptists from around the world will describe the need for missionaries in their areas. In return, new missionaries will tell how they are responding to a needy world's cry to "come over and help us."

The appointment service will crown the Wednesday evening

session of the June 11-13 convention, which is expected to draw 19,000 people to the Louisiana Superdome. The evening session will begin at 6 p.m. with music by the choir and orchestra of First Church of Jackson. Reports from the Home Mission Board and Baptist World Alliance will precede the foreign board report at 7:20 p.m. The appointment service will conclude the evening session.

The parade of brightly colored flags — an appointment service tradition — will include somber gray banners representing 2161 "Last Frontier" people groups that have little or no access to the gospel.

The service also will feature Rwanda missionary Marlene Lee and a drama presentation by members of The Company from Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth.



Fathers hear magic words

Two hundred-and-nine fathers and daughters representing 100 Mississippi churches converged on Camp Garaywa in Clinton on April 26-27 for the GA Father-Daughter Weekend. Charlie and Cara Brown (above), members of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, posed in front of the camp's dining hall during the Woman's Missionary Union-sponsored event. Todd Allen carried out the theme, "I Want to be Just Like You" when he sang, "Lord, I want to be like you because she wants to be like me." Speakers and other guests included Jan Cossitt, Beth Allen, Edna Ellison, ventriloquist Jan Halford, and Shelia Stanford. Bill Causey, executive director/treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, challenged fathers to put God and family first in their lives. During campfire time on Friday night, Jeff Parker and his daughters Emily and Amy told of their work on the mission field.

Salary reports an important part of Annuity Board disability plan

Up-to-date salary records are crucial when filing for employee disability benefits with the Annuity Board, according to a recent notification from the Dallas-based Southern Baptist Convention agency.

The disability benefit provided by the Annuity Board is 60% of an employee's monthly rate of basic earnings, according to the Schedule of Benefits for the Employer Security Disability Plan. Basic earnings is defined, as "the employee's monthly rate of pay for the last full payroll

period before the period of total disability began, excluding overtime pay and all other extra compensation."

Annuity Board regulations (the Employer Security Program Administrative Manual) assign the employer with responsibility for reporting any salary changes for a covered employee.

The regulations also emphasize that payment of disability benefits will be based on the last basic earnings figure supplied by the employer to the Annuity Board prior to the date of the disability claim.

The Annuity Board requests that all salary changes for employees covered under the

board's disability program be promptly reported in writing to the employer's customer service representative at the following address: Life and Health Department-ESP Accounts, Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, P.O. Box 2190, Dallas, TX 75221-2190.

Homecomings

Causeyville, Meridian: May 19: Don Womble, former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish luncheon will be served.

First, Lambert: May 26; services, 10:45 a.m.; dinner at noon; cemetery memorial service and fence dedication, 2 p.m.; Randy Hales, Minden, La., guest speaker; Steve Wilkerson, Oklahoma City, Okla., music; Steve Huber, pastor.

Heucks Retreat, Brookhaven: May 26; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; special song and memorial service following dinner on the grounds at noon; Richard Bradley, Jackson, guest speaker; Ken Kirk, pastor.

Union, Tylertown: June 2; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; Alva Ray McCorkle, former pastor, guest speaker; covered dish dinner; singing after lunch; Mike Sutton, pastor.

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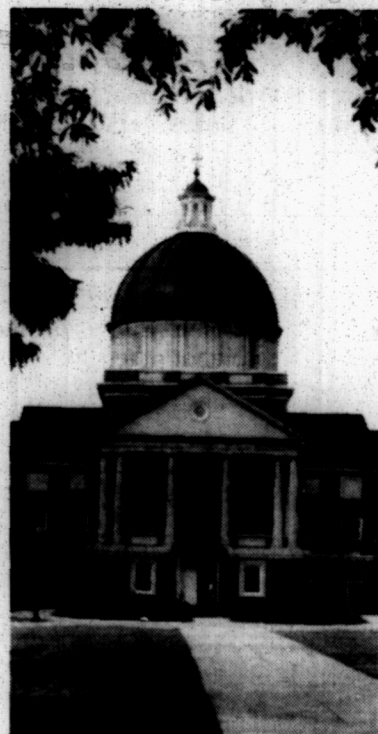
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This year's school features the Beeson faculty and visiting program leaders, as well as an affordable price, a broad range of workshop topics, special seminars for wives, and a planned program for children and youth. Additional features in 1996 include a ministers' golf tournament, a concert of prayer, and a ladies luncheon.

Cost, \$90 per person or \$150 per couple. Includes registration, banquet, meals and on-campus lodging.

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Program leaders include: Eric J. Alexander, Haddon Robinson, John Ed Mathison, Gardner Taylor, and Ron and Pat Owens.

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HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

May 16, 1996

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Office of Communication.**

Trusted with the Gospel

by **David Michel**, director,
Stewardship Department, MBCB

The apostle Paul writes to the Philippians thanking them for their "partnership in the gospel (1:5)" and encouraging them to "strive faithfully for the gospel (1:27)." The Cooperative Program offers a channel for relating to one another in missions partnership, and it helps us work for the gospel more effectively by combining our gifts and prayers. We must not lose touch with the primary purpose for the Cooperative Program: **the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

In the same way we have trusted Jesus for salvation, He has entrusted us with the message of rec-

onciliation. Baptists have never found a better method of preserving, proclaiming, or applying the gospel than through the ministries and missions of the Cooperative Program. Everytime your church gives through the Cooperative Program the gospel has been faithfully served and our fellowship with Christ has been strengthened.

Along with Paul we say: "Thank you for your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."



Let's pray this day ...

May 17-June 13, 1996

Prayer Ministry Office • P. O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 968-3800, Ext. 3904 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-PRAY

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

"Call unto me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." — Jeremiah 33:3

19 For the children in Mississippi who are afflicted with Down Syndrome. Pray also for their parents as they give them loving care.

20 For Associational Missions Week, 20-26, sponsored by the Home Mission Board.

21 For II Senior Adult Conference, May 21-23, sponsored by Discipleship & Family Ministry.

22 That you will give Christ top priority in your life and thank Him for the privilege of serving Him.

23 That all of our churches will have an active prayer ministry and encourage all their people to have a regular time to pray daily.

24 For the Day of Prayer and Fasting for World Evangelization, May 24 from 6 p.m.-6 p.m., May 25, sponsored by the Foreign Mission Board, focusing on the Tibetan people.

25 For the Single Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, May 25-27, sponsored by Discipleship & Family Ministry.

26 That God will give you wisdom to share your faith with others, especially with your children.

27 For your church ministries, your pastor and other church leaders whether they are staff members or volunteers.

28 For III Senior Adult Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, May 28-31, sponsored by Discipleship & Family Ministry.

29 For the Student Summer Missionary Orientation, May 29-31, at the Baptist Building. These students will be doing summer missions in Mississippi through Backyard Bible Clubs, etc.

30 For Senior Women on Mission Olympics, May 30, from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Camp Garaywa.

31 For I Youth Conference at Gulfshore Assembly, May 31-June 4.

1 For the Backyard Bible Clubs, Missions VBS Clinics sponsored by the Sunday School Department.

2 For the many June weddings and that those young couples will truly realize the sanctity of marriage.

3 For GA Summer Camp, Camp Garaywa, June 3-7, sponsored by the WMU.

4 For II Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by MBCB.

5 That your Christian life will be an example for others to follow.

6 For the large number of militant groups throughout the nation who oppose our government.

7 For those who are struggling to overcome habits that endanger their health and hinder their Christian testimony.

8 For III Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, June 8-12, sponsored by MBCB.

9 For the annual WMU Convention in New Orleans, June 9-10.

10 That you may truly know the person of the Holy Spirit who strengthens you in Christ.

11 For the Southern Baptist Convention which meets in New Orleans, June 11-13. Pray for SBC leaders and all the church messengers who will attend.

12 For many young people who have resentments against their parents.

13 For the IV Youth Conference, Gulfshore Assembly, sponsored by MBCB.

1995 COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

JANUARY 1-DECEMBER

CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All			
Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total	
ADAMS				CALHOUN				MONTPELIER				DIAMONDHEAD				PICKENS			
BETH	1,255.81	1,227.55	2,483.36	ANTIOCH	1,738.05	1,542.48	3,280.53	ANTIOCH	2,214.35	720.00	2,934.35	15,916.71	2,964.09	18,880.80	3,395.08	1,276.02	4,671.10	TRINITY	
CALVARY	3,722.00	1,674.80	5,396.80	BANNER	4,221.51	5,149.60	9,371.11	PHEBA	5,972.57	2,209.55	8,182.12	686.00	1,120.00	1,806.00	250.00	250.00	500.00	TUCKERS	
CLIFF TEMPLE	16,014.91	6,824.86	22,839.77	BETHANY	10,320.00	16,688.05	27,008.05	PINE BLUFF	1,338.00	576.00	1,914.00	4,062.94	1,079.24	5,142.18	5,412.20	3,597.00	9,009.20	UNITY	
CLOVERDALE	12,001.90	9,591.54	21,593.44	BIG CREEK	13,772.36	9,194.67	22,967.03	SILOAM	4,306.30	2,570.00	6,876.30	10,437.27	3,300.07	13,737.34	88,041.86	46,116.28	134,158.14	WEST ELL	
CRAWFORD	1,110.83	1,252.20	2,363.03	BRADFORD CHAPEL	2,553.98	5,527.13	8,081.11	TRINITY	4,800.00	1,838.00	6,638.00	FBC BAY ST LOUIS	22,631.03	8,400.18	31,031.21			WEST LA	
DAVIDSON	50,492.71	109,338.76	159,831.47	CALVARY	1,106.83	1,106.83	2,213.66	WEST END	20,836.80	3,534.80	24,371.60	FBC BILLOXI	132,741.73	56,316.22	189,057.95			WILDWOOD	
EMMANUEL	12,706.69	7,657.00	20,363.69	COLLEGE HILL	1,348.20	1,523.70	2,871.90					FBC DELSLE	1,318.30	235.00	1,553.30				
MORGANTOWN	17,823.48	15,915.19	33,738.67	CONCORD	3,159.28	3,335.25	6,494.53	COPIAH	3,670.62	4,422.12	8,092.74	FBC GULFPORT	120,374.79	53,249.21	173,624.00			KEMPER	
NEW HOPE	245.34	163.56	408.90	DERMA	25,746.50	8,752.28	34,498.78	BETHEL	4,359.13	4,422.12	8,781.25	FBC LONG BEACH	63,241.36	28,840.64	92,082.00			BAY SPR	
PARKWAY	55,899.60	20,564.76	76,464.36	DRIVERS FLAT	300.00	1,666.00	1,966.00	COUNTY LINE	1,480.00	1,480.00	2,960.00	FBC LYMAN	13,894.16	5,440.85	19,335.01			BLACKW	
SOUTHERN HILLS	1,699.78	790.07	2,489.85	DUNCAN HILL	1,409.50	45.00	1,454.50	DAMASCUS	292.68	764.91	1,057.59	FBC MCHENRY	1,700.00	1,733.74	3,433.74			BLUFF S	
SPRINGFIELD	2,931.00	1,239.00	4,170.00	ELLARD	2,064.06	1,596.02	3,660.08	FBC CRYSTAL SPRINGS	65,829.95	32,946.97	98,776.92	FBC PASS CHRISTIAN	1,928.00	500.00	2,428.00			CENTER	
STANTON	9,998.97	6,906.21	16,905.18	FBC BRUCE	52,892.04	22,155.41	75,047.45	FBC HAZLEHURST	30,827.82	25,101.13	55,928.95	FBC WAVELAND	1,397.00	1,516.48	2,913.48			CORINTH	
WASHINGTON	21,999.72	11,731.39	33,731.11	FBC CALHOUN CITY	57,131.10	33,461.56	90,592.66	GALLMAN	4,756.00	7,693.04	12,449.04	FBC WIGGINS	37,765.69	14,362.02	52,127.71			DEKALB	
	207,602.74	194,876.89	402,479.63	FBC VARDAMAN	24,721.05	12,567.30	37,288.35	GATESVILLE	1,017.14	509.53	1,526.67	FERNWOOD	2,587.42	1,075.16	3,662.58			ITAWAMBA	
ALCORN	2,952.42	3,093.32	6,045.74	LANTRIP	100.00	100.00	200.00	GEORGETOWN	6,551.79	9,057.68	15,609.47	FIRST S. PEARLINGTON	3,982.50	987.00	4,969.50			ANTIOCH	
BETHLEHEM	4,745.36	5,580.99	10,326.35	MACEDONIA	2,431.02	2,392.73	4,823.75	HARMONY	29,550.90	15,725.00	45,275.90	GRACE MEMORIAL	27,541.36	11,412.21	38,953.57			BETHANY	
CALVARY	728.88	4,515.60	5,244.48	MIDWAY	2,931.02	2,478.65	5,409.67	HIGHLAND	5,586.59	4,501.33	10,087.92	GRACE TEMPLE	490.00	247.00	737.00			DORSEY	
COUNTY LINE	3,700.00	2,890.00	6,590.00	MT COMFORT	2,795.70	2,654.16	5,449.86	HOPEWELL	865.69	715.80	1,581.49	GULF GARDENS	3,517.80	319.35	3,837.15			EVERGREEN	
DANVILLE	321.31	321.31	642.62	MT MORIAH	12,483.40	8,130.33	20,613.73	HOPEWELL	865.69	715.80	1,581.49	GULFPORT HEIGHTS	2,339.36	1,202.00	3,541.36			FAIRVIEW	
EAST CORINTH	11,472.30	8,736.38	20,208.68	MT TABOR	300.00	300.00	600.00	HOPEWELL	865.69	715.80	1,581.49	HANDSBORE	22,444.55	10,157.70	32,602.25			FBC FULTON	
FBC WIGGINSVILLE	3,763.51	3,400.87	7,164.38	NEW HOPE	882.76	836.19	1,718.95	NEW PROVIDENCE	14,981.25	20,838.57	35,819.82	HIGHLAND	2,322.09	2,322.09	4,644.18			KIRKVILLE	
FBC CORINTH	90,267.01	35,637.52	125,904.53	NEW LIBERTY	2,004.61	2,586.59	4,591.20	PEARL VALLEY	5,520.41	3,811.84	9,332.25	HUDSON-KROHN ROAD	1,643.21	1,107.81	2,751.02			LAKELAND	
GULDALE	13,044.00	5,060.00	18,104.00	NEW PROVIDENCE	3,383.96	5,604.48	8,988.44	PELAGRIMS REST	8,531.00	7,146.00	15,677.00	INTERNATIONAL MSN	939.72	70.00	1,009.72			MORNING VIEW	
HOLLY	179,162	3,918.57	183,080.57	OAK GROVE	1,194.00	747.00	1,941.00	POPLAR SPRINGS	4,399.00	1,160.25	5,559.25	KITTITWAKE	1,538.00	315.00	1,853.00			NEW HOME	
JACINTO	1,610.84	941.88	2,552.72	OLDTOWN	3,841.60	3,062.40	6,904.00	ROCKY HILL	2,881.85	3,634.88	6,516.73	KOREAN MISSION	525.00	75.00	600.00			POPLAR SPRINGS	
KEMPS CHAPEL	1,308.48	1,308.48	2,616.96	PARKER	1,594.22	318.82	1,913.04	SARDIS	1,839.10	6,314.38	8,153.48	LAKESHORE	180.74	218.72	399.46			PROVIDENCE	
KENDRICK	1,355.02	1,355.44	2,710.46	PELAGRIMS REST	168.00	60.00	228.00	SHADY GROVE	6,778.19	5,208.49	11,986.68	LIZANA	3,271.11	880.59	4,151.70			RAVERHILL	
KOSUTH FIRST	6,397.15	5,528.24	11,925.39	PITTSBORO	6,837.24	5,672.11	12,509.35	SPYRRA	2,496.00	4,770.00	7,266.00	MICHAEL MEMORIAL	17,708.72	17,925.25	35,633.97			SALEM	
LIBERTY HILL	1,064.00	1,064.00	2,128.00	PLEASANT HILL	5,351.75	4,246.78	9,598.53	SPRING HILL	3,085.00	2,163.54	5,248.54	NEW HOPE	12,817.81	12,724.00	25,541.81			SHILOH	
LONE OAK	600.00	600.00	1,200.00	PLEASANT RIDGE	3,360.00	3,951.96	7,311.96	STRONG HILL	12,680.77	6,272.64	18,953.41	NORTH HILLS MSN	1,012.00	451.00	1,463.00			TRINITY	
LOVE JOY	500.00	500.00	1,000.00	POPLAR SPRINGS	893.35	1,588.01	2,481.36	SYLVARENA	5,029.45	2,153.58	7,183.03	NORTH LONG BEACH	4,895.77	5,558.40	10,454.17			JACKSON	
NORTH CORINTH	44,930.36	23,519.16	68,449.52	ROCKY BRANCH	1,082.93	2,436.21	3,519.14	WESSON	15,999.96	19,446.30	35,446.26	OLIVET	2,896.31	1,415.14	4,311.45			ARLINGTON HTGS	
ORANGE CREEK	280.98	282.32	563.30	ROCKY MOUNT	1,190.91	825.39	2,016.30	WESTSIDE	735.71	537.35	1,273.06	PASS ROAD	400.00	468.19	868.19			BELLE FOUNTAIN	
RIENZI	9,835.18	16,344.53	26,179.71	SABOUGLA	8,366.30	5,552.24	13,918.54	ZION HILL	6,628.05	3,972.78	10,600.83	PERKINSON	16,399.55	5,705.03	22,104.58				

GRAM GIVING REPORT

MBER 31, 1995

CP All				CP All				CP All				CP All			
Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total		Gifts		Other Total	
TRINITY	23,032.52	12,930.03	35,962.55	BETHEL	600.00	1,200.00	1,800.00	FRIENDSHIP	16,835.96	11,135.00	27,970.96	GREGORY CHAPEL	450.20	656.26	1,106.46
TUCKERS CROSSING	13,358.25	7,427.41	20,785.66	CEDAR GROVE	100.00	50.00	150.00	GUM GROVE	17,212.30	12,395.59	29,607.89	HAMILTON	8,989.77	3,997.94	12,987.71
UNITY	7,575.00	3,065.00	10,640.00	CONWAY	5,452.11	13,058.12	18,510.23	HALBERT HGTS	1,385.51	1,037.77	2,423.28	JONES CHAPEL	2,416.05	2,346.42	4,762.47
WEST ELLSVILLE	34,396.86	10,952.86	45,349.72	CORINTH	1,992.37	2,621.29	4,613.66	HARMONY	1,340.01	1,374.71	2,714.72	LAKESIDE	175.00	199.62	374.62
WEST LAUREL	42,780.21	19,444.80	62,225.01	EMMANUEL	1,992.37	2,621.29	4,613.66	HEUCKS RETREAT	10,949.91	13,973.93	24,923.84	LIBERTY	3,444.00	2,295.00	5,739.00
WILDWOOD	14,651.34	9,954.70	24,606.04	FBC CARTHAGE	26,620.00	3,283.84	29,903.84	HOLLY SPRINGS	1,886.00	1,920.00	3,806.00	MEADOWOOD	33,514.59	19,460.35	52,974.94
	74,064.38	38,942.63	1,130,069.01	FREENY	3,227.75	4,016.95	7,244.70	LITTLE BAHALA	1,905.30	2,404.89	4,310.19	NEW HOPE	3,112.00	3,353.05	6,465.05
KEMPER	2,617.64	848.41	3,466.05	GOOD HOPE	1,890.13	925.13	2,815.26	MACEONIA	43,061.38	18,741.99	61,803.37	NEW PROSPECT	6,651.14	4,292.54	10,943.68
BAY SPRINGS	4,861.22	4,832.91	9,694.13	LENA	6,544.35	6,577.59	13,121.94	MISSION HILL	2,107.60	2,337.91	4,445.51	QUINCY	55.00	55.00	110.00
BLACKWATER	1,459.00	925.00	2,384.00	MADDEN	8,178.70	7,277.05	15,455.75	MOAKS CREEK	11,032.94	5,833.54	16,866.48	ROCKY SPRINGS	10,232.07	3,814.25	14,046.32
BLUFF SPRINGS	7,000.00	2,952.00	9,952.00	MARS HILL	1,050.66	840.66	1,891.32	MONTGOMERY	10,459.66	14,265.02	24,724.68	SMITHVILLE	1,355.19	9,859.58	11,214.77
CENTER RIDGE	1,250.22	821.00	2,071.22	MCDONALD	480.00	1,140.00	1,620.00	MT MORIAH	8,342.37	2,340.87	10,683.24	SOUTHNETLETON	1,405.83	3,763.56	5,169.39
CORINTH	8,368.47	4,815.10	13,183.57	MIDWAY	4,649.86	2,496.98	7,146.84	MT PLEASANT	14,285.63	6,311.55	20,597.18	SOUTHSIDE	3,456.08	450.00	3,906.08
DEKALB	1,850.00	2,900.00	4,750.00	MT CARMEL	1,288.68	3,081.68	4,370.36	MT ZION	27,033.27	9,353.09	36,386.36	SPRUNGE	2,725.50	3,961.50	6,687.00
LIBERTY	2,245.00	2,680.00	4,925.00	MT ZION	568.68	1,660.35	2,229.03	NEW PROSPECT	8,864.57	7,766.72	16,631.29	TRINITY	320,801.26	230,485.69	551,286.95
SALEM	13,295.85	8,733.68	22,029.53	NEW HOPE	2,452.61	610.00	3,062.61	PEARLHAVEN	2,245.17	2,245.17	4,490.34	VICTORY	0	305.02	305.02
SCOOBA	4,551.37	1,791.43	6,342.80	NEW PROSPECT	2,577.86	4,274.46	6,852.32	PHILADELPHIA	2,565.16	1,876.07	4,441.23				
UNION	224.00	224.00	448.00	NEW PROVIDENCE	2,288.00	895.00	1,123.00	PLEASANT GROVE	19,194.02	16,200.88	35,394.90				
UNION HILL	692.33	200.00	892.33	NEW ZION	228.00	895.00	1,123.00	PLEASANT HILL	10,044.00	10,782.76	20,826.76				
WARDAMAN	1,048.00	550.00	1,598.00	PLEASANT HILL	85.00	565.00	650.00	RUTH	1,994.41	1,994.41	3,988.82				
WAHALAK	6,000.00	3,000.00	9,000.00	REMUS	4,181.48	4,272.33	8,453.81	SHADY GROVE	8,757.20	2,846.71	11,603.91				
WEST KEMPER	55,463.10	35,049.53	90,512.63	RENFROE	1,914.99	1,025.00	2,939.99	SOUTHWAY	5,466.12	7,256.44	12,722.56				
				ROCKY POINT	762.32	1,078.25	1,840.57	TOPIAW	2,481.50	1,483.58	3,965.08				
LAFAYETTE	23,027.00	15,935.70	38,962.70	SALEM	1,538.56	1,881.23	3,419.79	UNION	3,834.98	3,855.79	7,690.77				
ANCHOR	3,600.00	914.01	4,514.01	SPRINGFIELD	3,797.00	9,010.00	12,807.00	UNION HALL	5,964.42	3,979.21	9,943.63				
CALVARY	15,138.62	6,343.12	21,481.74	STANDING PINE	3,885.50	3,164.45	7,049.95	WELLMAN	7,675.84	3,799.55	11,475.39				
CLEAR CREEK	9,159.16	9,112.71	18,271.87	SUNRISE	9,428.28	5,884.70	15,312.98		534,350.44	515,884.74	1,050,235.18				
COLLEGE HILL HGTS	1,338.50	1,338.50	2,677.00	THOMASTOWN	900.00	2,545.00	3,445.00	LOWNDES							
DELAY	460.71	197.44	658.15	TRINITY	6,916.70	9,715.29	16,631.99	ANTIOCH	15,687.34	3,120.37	18,807.71				
DENMARK	11,842.53	7,885.42	19,727.95	TUSCULA	1,347.70	1,810.20	3,157.90	ARTESIA	5,776.45	1,079.00	6,855.45				
FBC ABBEVILLE	78,000.00	51,056.99	129,056.99	WALNUT GROVE	103,819.29	96,111.55	199,930.84	BETHEL	7,095.52	2,500.25	9,595.77				
FBC OXFORD	23,008.20	8,373.56	31,381.76	WIGGINS				BORDER SPRINGS	8,892.32	4,582.08	13,474.40				
HARMONTOWN	3,385.92	6,012.83	9,398.75	LEBANON				CALVARY	22,678.00	3,704.89	26,382.89				
NEW ELBETH	1,708.10	300.00	2,008.10	BEACON	2,889.41	2,395.50	5,284.91	CANAAN	7,079.09	2,805.16	9,884.25				
NEW HOPE	21,861.89	4,085.00	25,946.89	CALVARY	9,623.00	6,258.36	15,881.36	COMMUNITY	3,608.27	2,765.13	6,373.40				
NEW PROSPECT	82,933.00	38,315.13	121,248.13	CARTERVILLE	48,045.67	26,363.36	74,409.03	EAST END	55,652.52	17,402.26	73,054.78				
NORTH OXFORD	798.00	1,011.00	1,809.00	CRESTVIEW	4,505.00	2,690.25	7,195.25	EASTVIEW	608.87	608.87	1,217.74				
OLD UNION	170.00	470.00	640.00	DIXIE	22,295.00	24,566.54	46,861.54	FAIRVIEW	137,345.29	34,380.88	171,726.17				
PARIS	1,198.00	6,379.75	7,577.75	EASTABUCHIE	1,608.58	1,084.39	2,692.97	FBC COLUMBUS	192,305.75	157,194.67	349,500.42				
PHILADELPHIA	7,775.79	3,233.32	11,009.11	FBC BROOKLYN	9,117.07	4,373.11	13,490.18	FRIENDSHIP	2,040.49	990.13	3,030.62				
SHILOH	2,470.00	1,451.60	3,921.60	FBC CARNES	3,355.00	1,119.00	4,474.00	IMMANUEL	23,219.54	9,605.44	32,824.98				
TAYLOR	8,264.55	4,547.90	12,812.45	FBC GLENDALE	27,246.65	16,283.62	43,530.27	KOLLA SPRINGS	10,396.35	4,490.99	14,887.34				
TEMPLE HGTS	6,070.92	2,722.46	8,793.38	FBC HATTIESBURG	150,637.01	102,115.89	252,752.90	MCBEE	50.00						

Revival Dates

Thursday, May 16, 1996

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Just for the Record

First Church, Braxton: May 19-21; Sunday, 11 a.m., Fuller B. Saunders, Jackson, speaker, lunch following morning service; Mon., 7 p.m., Earl Kelly, Jackson, speaker; Tues., 7 p.m., Bill Causey, executive secretary-treasurer, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Jackson, speaker; Mon. and Tues., dinner, 5:30 p.m.

Center Terrace, Canton: May 19-22; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and covered dish luncheon; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Berry, evangelist; Frank Nix, music.

Holmesville (Pike): May 18-26; Sat.(18), 7 p.m.; Sunday (19 and 26), 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Sat. (20-25), 7 p.m.; Ernest Seddon, Billings, Mo., evangelist, and Judy Seddon, soloist; Brian Rowe, pastor.

Paul, Scobey: May 20-23; 7:30 p.m. nightly; Clarence Cooper, Grenada, evangelist; Johnny Caldwell, Hardy Church, music; Donnie Bain, pastor.

Rock Branch, Union: June 2-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Glenn Davis, Sumrall, evangelist; Alvin Moore, Union, music; Davie Guess, pastor.

Parkway Church, Natchez, will host "Heaven's Gates and Hell's Flames" at 7 p.m. nightly on May 19-22. Admission is free, but tickets are necessary. They can be obtained at the church office. For more information, call the church at (601) 442-7434. Jimmy Sartain is pastor; Kevin Hurt is minister of church growth and programs.

McDonald Union Church, Lena, will sponsor a Benefit Trail Ride on May 18. The ride will begin at 9 a.m. and return at 4 p.m. The minimum donation is \$5. Meals for the day will be served at the church. All proceeds will go to the Sunday School rooms. For further information, call (601) 654-3508, 654-8896, or 654-9219. Dale Round is pastor.

Warren Association and Spirit 106 radio will sponsor a concert by Christian contemporary duo East to West on May 18 at 7 p.m. in Vicksburg's Warren Central High School Auditorium. Tickets are \$8, and are available at area Christian bookstores. For more information, call (601) 956-9800 or (601) 636-4313.

The Mississippi College Continuing Education Office will be offering ACT review courses for

students preparing for the ACT. Classes will be held from 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-3:30 p.m. on May 25 and June 1 in Jennings Hall, Room 208. Registration fees are \$15 per class. For further information, contact Shaun Hand at (601) 925-3264.

First Church, McHenry, celebrated Youth Day on April 28, with the youth teaching all Sunday School classes, the youth choir singing in the morning service, and one of the youth, Patrick Breland, preaching. Kenneth McLendon is pastor.

Clowns and More will host a Clown/Arts College at the Cloverleaf Mall, Hattiesburg, on May 25, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information, call (601) 544-4420.

The Teletals from Nashville will be in concert May 18, 7 p.m., at New Prospect Church (east of Sebastopol); and at Wiggins Church, Carthage, on May 19, at 6 p.m. For more information call (601) 253-2386.

The Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship (CBF) recently entered into a partnership project with missionaries Butch and Nell Green. The Greens work in the inner city of Miami, Fla., in



Craig Conner (left) was honored on his 10th anniversary as pastor of Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, with a surprise celebration, March 3. Activities included presentation of a plaque, gift from the church, and a fellowship following the evening service. Wallace Russell, Dothan, Ala., was the guest speaker. David Kelly (right) is minister of students and senior adults.

a ministry called "Touching Miami With Love." As part of the ministry's Easter celebration, the Greens assembled gift boxes of candy and coloring books for HIV-positive children. The Mississippi CBF purchased 400 "Jesus Is Alive" coloring books to be included in the boxes.

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Trusting God for needs



By David Mitchell
Matthew 6

Kingdom living and money. We continue our study of the Sermon on the Mount with Jesus causing the crowd to answer the question: What is the goal? In our society, we always strive to reach or to make the goal; however, our thoughts and desires tend to cause our goals to be unlike those of God. People have a tendency to set their goals on castles, cars, and cash. Jesus knew the danger of making the accumulation of material things the goal of one's life. He desired that every person have the simple necessities of life. His teaching helps us put our goals in proper perspective. People should devote their lives to acquiring "treasures in heaven" (v. 20) instead of on earth. These are the only treasures that will endure during this life and when this life is over. Some of the treasures of heaven are: salvation, heavenly rewards, approval of our life's activity by God, and completion of God's will for our lives.

Wherever a person's heart is, there will his treasures be also (v. 21). The heart is inclusive of the mind and the will. People are destined to spend their lives and eternal lives enjoying the rewards of those things to which they have devoted their minds and wills. Jesus taught that you cannot be a slave to two masters at the same time. The choice is the choice of serving God or mammon. Mammon is an Aramaic word which means the power of money or material things. Jesus was speaking of pursuing wealth in such a way that it enslaves a person. Our enslavement should be to devoting our lives to serve God. Money is and of itself is not evil, but rather the love of money is evil (1 Tim. 6:10).

Kingdom living and worry. Anxiety and worry are the cause of numerous physical problems in our contemporary society. Worry is the subject of this entire section. Christians are to rely upon God for all of life's needs, remembering that the key is focusing upon pleasing God rather than pleasing self. When our life's goal is to please God rather than self, we begin to understand that life is about much more than food or clothes. Jesus warns his followers about worry concerning food and clothing. If God provides for the birds of the air, which are far less valuable to God than human beings, certainly God will provide for humans. The person who has mammon as his guide has reason to worry — his god may be gone at any moment. The person who has Almighty Creator God as his King can take comfort in knowing that his God is eternal. It has been suggested that the greatest threat to western Christianity is our all-encompassing sense of materialism.

Medical science has proven Jesus' statement to be true: "Worry cannot add one day to your life," and often it shortens life. Again he instructed us not to worry because God will provide. The comparison is made to the flowers which God has beautifully adorned. God bountifully ornaments the flowers with unsurpassed splendor. Because God has so lavishly adorned this part of his creation, we should know that he will provide for humans, who are much more valuable to God than the birds of the air or the flowers of the field (vv. 26, 30). Jesus was saying that worry results from a lack of belief in God's goodness and mercy.

Jesus concluded this section of teaching by pointing out that our priorities should be fixed on seeking the righteousness of the kingdom of God. Worrying about food, clothing, and the future are for those who do not have a hope in Jesus. God knows exactly what his children need, and the loving heavenly Father adequately provides. Jesus does not teach that we are to make no plans for tomorrow, but he does teach that anxiety about the needs of tomorrow is useless. Why worry about the events of the future over which you have no control?

Mitchell is pastor of Van Winkle Church, Jackson.

Bible Book Call for genuine worship



By Clayton Littlejohn
Zechariah 7, 8

One of God's many characteristics is that he is no respecter of persons, and his call for genuine worship declares that his people must show justice, mercy, and compassion to all people. Zechariah's listeners were repeating the sins of their forefathers by worshipping with their lips and not their heart. Zechariah's call for genuine worship is timeless and needs proclaiming in our churches today. Ask yourself these three questions: How does your worship affect your everyday life? Does your worship make you want to reach others for Christ? Does your worship bring joy or emptiness?

A rebuke of insincere worship: (7:4-6). Two years after Zechariah's first message, some men from Bethel came to ask questions about fasting on special occasions (7:1-3). God responded in the form of rhetorical questions, and was a rebuke to all the people — and priests (v. 5). The answer to the question is not given until Chapter 8, verses 18-19. The specific fast is one of four that took place when Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to the city and began his destruction of the walls, temple, and individuals (2 Kings 25). Since the temple was being rebuilt, it seemed a burden to keep the fast. Zechariah's rebuke came in the form of questions from God: "Did ye all fast unto me, even to me? Did you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves?"

In a slightly sarcastic way, God was saying, "You are using the fast to satisfy your own religious ego just as food satisfies your daily needs." If we are just reading our Bible so we can check off on our daily Bible reading list, or if we don't miss a Sunday at Bible study so we can receive a pin, then we are just like Zechariah's audience. This is a rebuke against religious rituals and a call for sincere adoration and worship of our God.

A call for justice, mercy, and compassion (7:8-10). These passages call for genuine worship and righteousness that will reach out and minister to the oppressed. If our religion doesn't lead to righteous deeds toward God and others, then something is wrong with that religion. Genuine worship will lead one to execute true judgment. This is a legal term that means to treat each individual with honesty and impartiality. Next, show mercy and compassion. In pessimistic societies, the tendency is to be hard and unloving. God calls for tenderness and love; he also calls on us to oppress not the widow, the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor. These were the helpless ones in society who desperately need the righteous to minister to their needs. Genuine worship leads us to these people, not away from them (Matt. 25:35-40). The word *imagine* means to weave a wicked plot against someone. The true saint will plan ways to help, not hurt. Does your worship lead you to help others?

Elements of genuine worship (8:16-19). Genuine worship brings at least four spiritual characteristics, all of which are found in verse 19: joy, gladness, love of truth, and peace. God would change the four fasts into feasts. They were accustomed to fasting in the fourth month to remember the broken city walls (2 Kings 25:3-4); the fifth month to remember the destroyed temple (2 Kings 25:8-9); the seventh month to remember their slain governor Gedaliah (2 Kings 25:25); the 10th month to remember the initial siege of the city (2 Kings 25:1). This time of depression and fasting would turn to delight and feasting.

Drawing others toward God (8:20-23). God was to do a special act of drawing the Gentiles into his Kingdom some day in the future; notice "shall yet come to pass." Zechariah didn't live to see this happen, and we have yet to see it happen, but one day Jerusalem will open the gates to many people from all over the world. Israel, which is despised by so many Gentile nations, will one day be loved and looked upon as friends. This will happen when Israel accepts Jesus as Messiah and seeks to evangelize the world. The excitement will be so great that nations will take hold of the skirt (v. 23), just as a child grabs his mother's skirt and seeks protection and blessing. What a day that will be!

As Christians, we don't have to wait. If our worship is genuine, we will always be bringing people into the protection and blessings of Jesus.

Littlejohn is pastor of Ingram Church, Baldwin.

Life and Work You can be faithful



By Linda Donnell
2 Thessalonians 2

"Faith" is a common word in the Christian vernacular. It is a word that invariably comes up in any Christian discussion. But how many of us understand the reality of faith? Many study faith, analyze faith, make noble resolves of faith; but how many actually make the leap of faith?

In today's lesson, Paul said much about faith and called the Thessalonian Christians to be faithful through all as they await the return of Christ.

Don't be alarmed (vv. 1-2). The verses in today's scripture are among the most difficult passages in the New Testament, and there are numerous differing opinions in their regard. We should, however, not get lost in the debates over interpretations, but rather concentrate on the practical spiritual lessons found therein.

Some of the Thessalonians had mistaken the apostle's teaching in his first letter about the second coming of Christ and thought that the time had actually arrived. It is even believed that someone had forged a letter in Paul's name to that effect. In the first two verses, Paul sought to rectify that misinformation and entreated his readers not to be alarmed in regard to the Lord's return. He also reminded them that the important thing is that Jesus is coming and all Christians will be together with him (v. 1).

It is so easy for the devil to promote errors — even by means of the words of scripture. This misinformation can easily shake our faith if we are not well grounded in our relationship with God. Paul did not want this to happen to the new Christians in Thessalonica.

Don't be deceived (vv. 3, 4, 8). Paul encouraged his readers not to be deceived by false reports. He wanted them to know that certain things had to happen before the second coming: the first of which was the apostasy — "the falling away" (v. 3). This refers to a time when the forces of evil would rebel against God in an effort to end his rule. Then the apostasy would culminate with the appearance of the "man of sin." Some interpreters believe this to be the person elsewhere referred to as the Antichrist (1 John 2:18). The apostle assured the Thessalonians that God will ultimately destroy the "wicked" one at the Lord's coming (v. 8).

Paul's major thesis here was to prevent false doctrine from weakening the faith of the new believers. He did not want their comfort lessened by false alarms. We should always be watchful and in a state of preparedness for Christ's return. Otherwise we might be discouraged or uncomfortable at the thought of this wonderful event.

Stand firm (vv. 13-15). After concluding his discussion of the "man of sin," Paul abruptly turned to the subject of thanksgiving and the Christian's salvation. He gave a brief synopsis of Christian life, beginning with God's love. We must always see God's salvation as rooted and grounded in his love (John 3:16). Paul emphasized that the initiative of salvation is with God: "because from the beginning God chose you" (v. 13). This was not some afterthought on his part. Then, through the work of the Holy Spirit, the unbeliever is led to faith in Christ (sanctifying work of the Spirit). God also uses human instruments in the salvation process as he did in sending Paul, Silas, and Timothy to Thessalonica. The end result of the Christian life is that the believers share in the glory of Christ (v. 15).

After reviewing the salvation process with his readers, Paul challenged them to "stand firm" and "hold on to the teachings passed on to you" (v. 15). To "stand" and to "hold" are not easy tasks. Our attention to spiritual matters can be diverted by so many things in this world. However, we should be challenged to study God's truth and not turn from it.

Be encouraged (vv. 16-17). In these verses Paul pushed the Thessalonians beyond believing the truth and guarding it. His desire and prayer was to push them to action: to encourage them and establish them "in every good word and work." Too many Christians today place too much emphasis on guarding the truth and give very little attention to living the truth. Indeed, one of the best ways to safeguard the truth is to put it into practice. In this way it is preserved and passed on.

Donnell is a member of First Church, Hattiesburg.

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(to be continued)

capsules

FMB TO CUT JAPAN FORCE BY 30%: RICHMOND (BP) — To make additional resources available in areas of the world where Foreign Mission Board (FMB) leaders feel God is focusing their attention, the Southern Baptist agency will reduce the number of missionaries in Japan over the next three years by about 30%. Even with the cutbacks, the Japan mission will have about 120 missionaries and will be the FMB's second-largest mission in the world, behind south Brazil. The high cost of living and the high inflation rate in Japan — dovetailed with the realization that Christian growth there has plateaued at low levels — led agency officials to the difficult conclusion that resources deployed there could produce significantly greater results in other countries. The decision to "rightsize" the Japan mission reflects the board's determination to accomplish strategic objectives by redeploying resources to both "harvest fields" and "The Last Frontier." Harvest fields are areas of the world where God is producing an abundance of new Christians and churches. The Last Frontier refers to areas of the world where people have little or no access to the gospel.

BAPTIST URGES CONGRESS TO KEEP CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS: WASHINGTON (ABP) — A Texas Baptist attorney and businessman urged a congressional tax-writing panel to "maintain and enhance" charitable giving in the nation by keeping tax incentives for charitable donations in any tax-reform package it approves. Randall Fields, chairman of the board of regents of the Baylor University System, was among witnesses appearing May 1 before the House Ways and Means Committee. Fields testified on behalf of the Baptist Joint Committee, a Washington-based group that monitors religious-liberty issues. Fields lives in San Antonio and is a member at Trinity Church there. Fields told the panel he applauds efforts to examine the federal tax system but urged that "efforts be taken to maintain and enhance the charitable-giving sector of our economy, both in the intermediate term and long term."

DC TALK, POINT OF GRACE AMONG TOP DOVE WINNERS: NASHVILLE (BP) — Christian rock group DC Talk earned artist of the year honors at the Gospel Music Association's 27th Annual Dove Awards, April 25 at the Grand Ole Opry House, Nashville. The announcement came as a surprise to many people, including the members of DC (which stands for "decent Christian") Talk. One of the highest sellers in the Christian music industry, the group has been passed over for major awards in previous years in favor of more mainstream artists. Female four-some Point of Grace captured group of the year honors, and show host Michael W. Smith took the Dove for songwriter of the year. Smith, who last won the award in 1985, ended Steven Curtis Chapman's seven-year monopoly in the category. Gary Chapman received the award for male vocalist of the year, and CeCe Winans was named female vocalist of the year. The new artist of the year award went to alternative/rock group Jars of Clay, whose debut album will be certified gold in a few days.

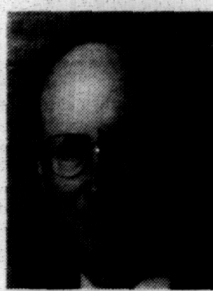
88-YEAR-OLD TOO BUSY TO STOP SERVING: OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (BP) — Some 88-year-olds would be tempted to spend their hours reflecting on the past. Not Ed Packwood. He's too busy planning for the future. The former auto parts salesman, new car dealer, gas station operator, Baptist Foundation head, college vice president has been elected to new four-year term on the board of directors of the Baptist Retirement Centers of Oklahoma. "It's a statement of faith when someone who is 88 makes a four-year commitment," said Larry Adams, BRCO vice president for development. Packwood has been living on faith since growing up in Missouri as the 10th of 11 children. He doesn't see any sense in ending his service, especially since he is a resident of one of the retirement centers. "The people are treated so good," Packwood said. "Who would do those things for them if it were not for our retirement centers?"



Jim Edwards (right), chancellor of William Carey College in Hattiesburg, greets Gene Taylor, U.S. Congressman for the fifth district of Mississippi, prior to the awards presentation at the 1996 Fifth Congressional District Art Competition on the school's main campus. Taylor served as host of the awards program.

Graduation set for MC on May 18

Mississippi College will hold its 1996 Commencement ceremony on May 18, beginning at 10 a.m. in Robinson-Hale Stadium.



Brock

Six hundred sixty-six students make up the university's 170th graduating class.

Speaker for the ceremony will be John F. Brock, managing director, chief executive officer, and member of the board of directors of the \$7 billion global beverages business for Cadbury Schweppes plc.

An honorary doctoral degree will be awarded to Anise Pickering McDaniel of Clinton. McDaniel, 102, will receive the honorary doctor of humane letters degree in recognition of her many years of involvement, support, and encouragement of the college. She presently serves as chairperson for the 1996 Mississippi College Annual Fund.

Don Hicks, preschool and children's consultant for the Discipleship and Family Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will deliver the invocation. Janie Winscott of Prentiss will give the benediction.

SBTS breaks ground, takes other actions

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Southern Seminary broke ground for the final phase of its Honeycutt Campus Center two hours after an April 16 trustee vote approving its construction.

The \$3.9 million building will house a 300-seat cafeteria, private dining and conference rooms, and a 500-capacity banquet hall. It is a part of a comprehensive complex that contains the seminary bookstore, health and recreation facilities, post office, and student-related administrative offices. The first two phases of the campus center were completed in the fall of 1990.



LifeAnswers

Ron Mumbower, Ph.D.
Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

I'm Baptist and I drink. You can't kick me out of church, and I wouldn't care if you did. We need to lighten up on our over-moralizing about alcohol.

You have made a strong statement that cannot be challenged, because you left no room for common ground. You have your opinion. I may not agree with you based on my understanding of Scripture, or how I have seen family and friends destroyed by alcohol. However, we both must listen to our Lord and be obedient to his following. Scripture is clear that we must not be stumbling blocks to other people (1 Cor. 7:9-13). Avoiding alcohol, therefore, is not as much an issue of specific Baptist doctrine as it is a call to general Christian responsibility. Of greater concern is that you "wouldn't care" if you were kicked out of church. Why are you so bitter and angry? Drinking — or any other habit taken to excess — is often an attempt to self-medicate deep hurts and pains. When a person turns to addictive behavior,

he/she is usually fleeing from pain by seeking instant gratification. You should talk to a good friend or see a Christian counselor who will help you understand why you feel as you do. Get a handle on your anger, before it gets a handle on you.

When I see my adulterous ex-husband and his new wife in our church choir, I can hardly think of anything else during the worship service. What can I do?

Don't sit in a direct line of sight. When you can't see the two of them every time you look at the pastor, you can better concentrate on the sermon. Prepare yourself each Sunday by spending quality time with the Lord prior to the worship service. Sit with good friends; let them know of your concern so they can be praying for you. Sit upright and tall, knowing that you are a creation of infinite worth to God, and that he loves you even though you have been rejected by someone else. You still count with Christ.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

In other action, the trustees: — elected Jerry Johnson, pastor of Central Church, Aurora, Colo., as chairman for the 1996-97 year. — granted tenure and faculty rank to Mohler. — elected four professors to endowed chairs: Craig Blaising, Daniel Block, Brian Richardson, Robert Smith.

Southern also has set the process in motion to phase out its Carver School of Church Social Work and transfer it to another institution.

Expressing regret and outrage at the decision to remove the theological journal *Review & Expositor*.

tor from its historic roots at Southern Seminary, President R. Albert Mohler Jr. and seminary trustees have indicated they nevertheless will not initiate legal action to stop the action of the journal's editorial board.

Instead, they will proceed immediately with creation of a theological journal which will, according to Mohler, "represent the very best evangelical scholarship and exposition" in accord with the original intentions of the founders of the *Review & Expositor*.

Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx
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RFDNDHTND Z YBL MORT LTM, XFBR RFZOKY
YTDCDN LD PDYZND, XFDO LD ANBL, GDIZDCD
RFBR LD NDEDZCD RFDQ, BOP LD YFBII FBCD
RFDQ.

QBNU DIDCDO: RXDORL-HTMN

This week's clue: D equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Acts Eleven: Sixteen.

Baptist Record

005-DTM
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291
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901 COMMERCE ST STE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620

May 16, 1996

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